

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

OCTOBER 4, 2016

The Board of Supervisors recognized in 1976 that the Ford Theatres was "potentially one of the County's great cultural facilities." On a motion by the late Supervisor Ed Edelman, the Board placed the management and operation of the Ford Theatres in the hands of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to implement a vigorous program that would increase and diversify the use of the Ford Theatres.

In furtherance of the Board's commitment to the development of the Ford Theatres, the Board created the Ford Theatre Foundation in 1994. The Foundation is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to fundraise for and support the Ford Theatres. The Foundation is also actively involved in the programming of events for the Ford Theatres.

Under the Arts Commission, and with the assistance of the Foundation, the Ford Theatres has grown into an important venue for local artists seeking to broaden their audience base, and for County residents, as well, by exposing them to a diverse range of experiences and voices, at reasonable cost. Among other things, the Ford Theatres hosts regular events throughout its annual summer season, and offers family-friendly

MOTION

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and interactive engagement with artists through its Jam Sessions and Big! World! Fun! programming.

In 2014, the County approved millions of dollars of repair, maintenance, and refurbishment projects for the Ford Theatres and a funding agreement with the Foundation to carry out the projects. Construction is underway and expected to be completed in January 2017.

The time is right for the Ford Theatres to take another step toward realizing its full potential as "one of the County's great cultural facilities." The capital resources committed to the physical character of the Ford Theatres deserve a concomitant commitment to increasing and diversifying available programming, and further expanding the profile of the Ford Theatres for artists and residents locally, nationally, and internationally.

Many of the County's other highly visible cultural institutions have achieved world-renowned status while under the management of a non-profit organization dedicated solely to operating the institution, including the County's Natural History Museum and LACMA. The County has helped these institutions along the way by providing increased funding and partnering closely with non-profits to achieve the vision for these institutions.

The Ford Theatre Foundation has been closely involved in the operation of the Ford Theatres for over two decades and, in close partnership with the County, is in a position to steer the Ford Theatres to new heights. The Ford Theatre Foundation, acting separately but in full cooperation with the County, can more effectively manage the Theatres' operations going forward.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Executive Officer of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer to:
  - a.) Identify all costs currently associated with staffing and operating the Ford Theatres;
  - b.) Work with the Ford Theatre Foundation to decide whether and how current County staff assigned to the Ford Theatres may be reassigned or transferred to other similar positions elsewhere in the County, or shared, and;
  - c.) Create two separate budget units, one for the Ford Theatres and one for the County Arts Commission, and ensure all necessary changes are submitted during the proposed budget;
2. Direct the Executive Officer and County Counsel to report back to the Board in 30 days with governance model options for management of the Ford Theatres;
3. Direct the Chief Executive Officer and County Counsel to negotiate all appropriate lease and funding agreements to allow the Ford Theatre Foundation to administer the use and programming of the Ford Theatres, and bring those agreements to the Board for consideration at a future meeting;
4. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to immediately recruit for an Interim Executive Director of the Ford Theatres, and upon completion of the search return to the Board for final approval; the Interim Executive Director will manage the Ford Theatres operations for a temporary period until the Foundation is adequately staffed and prepared to assume direct management of the Theatres, and;

5. Until the Ford Theatres' management is transitioned to the Foundation, authorize the Executive Officer or her designee, and the Interim Executive Director, when hired, to execute contracts and make other expenditures on behalf of the County provided the following criteria are satisfied: (a) funds have been budgeted by the Board; (b) the contract or expenditure relates to activities or programs involving the Ford Theatres; and (c) in the case of contracts, the agreement has been approved, as to form, by County Counsel. For the purposes of this delegation of authority, the phrase "activities or programs involving the Ford Theatres" shall include, at a minimum, performances and programs at the Ford Theatres, the Free Concert Series, and other programs for which the Board has allocated funds.

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